



Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The American Association of Lutheran

MARCH 2025

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

2415 Ensign St
Duluth MN 55811
clcduluth.org

Church Office
218-722-7537
church@clcduluth.org

Pastor Mark Raitz
313-268-0319
pastor@clcduluth.org

President
Mike Pickar
651-338-4171

Deacon Chair
Gary Lofald
218-590-8217

Every Month:
Sunday Bible Study
11:00 AM

Wed. Bible Study
6:30 PM

Council Meeting
2nd Thur. at 6:30 PM

Food Share:
4th Thur.
11:30 AM -12:30 PM

Esther Circle
1st Thur. at 10:00 AM

AA
Mondays at 6:30 PM

The Call of Lent

“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”

Matthew 11:28

This is a gracious invitation from our Lord Jesus, and He gives a precious promise attached to this invitation. Like other wonderful words of Jesus, this verse from Matthew can become “just another verse” we state without considering its true meaning.

But it is infinitely more than that. We enter into the holy season of Lent. The mood of Lent is deep penitence. While our eyes are fixed upon Christ and His suffering for us, we must at the same time see how we have been the cause of that suffering. Lent is a Divine Drama, in which we are on the stage, both as the sinful members of the crowd shouting, “Crucify Him!,” and as the disciples who were weak in faith and scared at His death. But we see the Cross as victory and not defeat.

Our Lord spoke these powerful words to our hearts as the eternal Son of God, to whom was given all authority and power in heaven and on earth who said: “Come to Me, . . . and I will give you rest.” It was the very God who offered Himself as a sacrifice for our multiple transgressions and who alone had the power to redeem us from these transgression by His precious blood.

The word “rest” on the lips of the Savior is an all-encompassing word. It includes complete pardon for all our sins; a safe harbor in every storm of life; a quiet place of refuge from the endless torments of doubt and fear; and a peaceful and joyful haven for our weary souls when they reach their journey’s end.

God’s blessings on our Lenten journey together and may we say with Horatius Bonar who heard this invitation from our Lord and wrote:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto Me and rest; Lay down, you weary one, lay down, your head upon my breast, I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in Him a resting place, and he has made me glad.”

In Christ,

Pastor Raitz

Assisting with March Ministry

March 2

Ushers: Grace W., Carolyn L., Mark Y., Keith Y.

Scripture Reader: Dave S.

Communion Assistant: Gary L., Birdie M.

Trustees: Laurie & Sharon

March 5 -Ash Wednesday

Trustees: Laurie & Sharon

March 9

Usher: Jim & Sandy C.

Scripture Reader: Danielle M.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

March 12 - Lenten Service

Trustees: Laurie & Julie

March 16

Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Mark Y., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Gary L.

Communion Assistant: Keith Y., Gabe W.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

March 19 - Lenten Service

Trustees: Grace & Bill

March 23

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W.

Scripture Reader: Mark W.

Trustees: Grace & Bill

March 26 - Lenten Service

Trustees: Laurie & Sharon

March 30

Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Mark Y., Keith Y.

Scripture Reader: Dave S.

Communion Assistant: Jim C., Birdie M.

Trustees: Laurie & Sharon

*If you have a conflict with these dates,
please contact Jim Carlson at 218-343-6755*

Financial Update

January Income: \$6,943.00

January Expenses: \$11,576.00

Monthly income was under
expenses by \$4,633.00

YTD Income: \$6,943.00

YTD Expenses: \$11,576.00

YTD income was under
expenses by \$4,633.00

January Missions:

Father Daughter Ball: \$680.00

Miner Mexico Mission Trip: \$610.00

Full financial reports are available
in the office upon request



Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

March 2 Birthday Donuts/Council

March 9 Esther Circle

March 16 Youth

March 23 Esther Circle

March 30 Volunteers

Livestream Operators

March 2 Gary L.

March 9 Gary L.

March 16 Keith L.

March 23 Keith L.

March 30 Keith L.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- Esther Circle meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM at church.
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7 AM at Caribou Coffee by Cub Foods.
- Quilting Tuesday, March 11 at 9 AM. Bring a bag lunch.
- There will be no Wednesday night Bible studies until April 23. Please join us for Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Supper at 5:00 PM.
- CAIN's **Jesus Music Tour** is coming to the Northland on April 25! contact Gary Lofald if you are interested in attending.
- Gary Lofald will be going on a mission trip with Project Manana in June. There is space for anyone else that wishes to join this ministry. Please let Gary know if you are interested.
- Teen Challenge invites everyone to celebrate what the Lord has done in the lives of their clients. Graduations are held at Hermantown Community Church 4880 Maple Grove Road on March 27, May 29, July 31, September 25, and November 20. Doors open at 6:00 PM with graduation starting at 6:30 PM with cake and refreshments served following the ceremony. No RSVP necessary.
- Teen Challenge is looking for donations of magazines for a project. There will be a box in the entry-way if you have any magazines-sports, garden, hobbies, etc. that you could donate. Thank you.



“Our Lord’s Wounded Body”

Ash Wednesday March 5 at 6:30 PM
Lenten Services March 12,19,26 April 2,9 at 6:30 PM
(Supper at 5:00 PM)
Palm Sunday April 13
Maundy Thursday April 17
Good Friday April 18

A NEW Photo Directory is coming soon.

**Please submit photos to the church email -
church@clcduluth.org**



Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook page:
Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM
You can also log onto our website clcduluth.org



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Our 29th Annual Father Daughter Ball!!

We were blessed to celebrate our 29th Annual Father Daughter Ball on Saturday, January 25th and February 8, 2025 in the Lake Superior Ballroom of the DECC. We had 405 guests purchase tickets on the 25th and 689 on the 8th. Many were there for their first time. One couple has been with us all 29 years!



Our guests were able to reserve a table if they ordered six or more tickets. Due to increased meal costs, tax and gratuity we raised our ticket price to \$35.00. Pastor Mark provided a wonderful message for our guests both evenings and Gary Lofald emceed. Derrick Ellis, of Skyline Entertainment was our DJ the first evening. He is retiring, so we thanked him for serving us these past years. Mark Cpin from Diamond MC Entertainment DJ'd on the 8th. He was well received and brought some new music with him. DJ's are paid \$900.00 a night and the rates will be higher next year. Visit our website at fatherdaughterballduluth.org to see pictures!

A cute short story...as there are so many people at our event, we make a specific announcement to the young ladies. We tell them, *"if your dad gets lost tonight and you can't find him, go to the doors and tell one of the volunteers wearing our Father Daughter Ball Logo pins and they will help you find him"*. Mind you, there are a lot of people there and some are pretty small. We say this in a fun way so they don't cry and panic. We had five girls on the 8th that came to us and told us that their dad was lost! When we asked them what their dad's name was, the obvious answer was "DAD"! Too cute! They were found and "no tears"!

We had a generous outside donation of \$420.00 to bless 12 MN Adult and Teen Challenge dads and their daughters on the 8th. These families also received courtesy beverage tickets and Lynnette's provided them with a free photo packet. We offered three entrées: Champaigne Chicken, Cheese Manicotti, and Chicken Tenders for the younger ladies. Ice cream was served for dessert. Guests could purchase pop or lemonade if they chose. The cost for coffee was \$36.00 a gallon. We served a total of 31 gallons both evenings - a cost of \$1,116.00. The cost to rent the ballroom, coat room, Will-Call area, Board Room, and French River Room for pictures is \$1350.00 per night.

We used silk pink dahlias from our old inventory for our centerpieces. They were placed in 9" glass cylinders, filled with water and we floated a candle on the top. We placed those on a mirror tile surrounded by three white votive candles and two more pink flowers. Hershey kisses were sprinkled on the mirrors. We used white table cloths with white napkins the first night and black napkins the second. Northland Special Events provided room decorations at a cost of \$2,200.00 for both nights. Café lights were hung from the ceiling under white tulle and pink paper lanterns were hung from them. The backdrop was swooped with varying colors of pink tulle with pink uplighting. Our Banners were hung on either side of the backdrop with up lighting from the floor to accentuate them. On each side of the DJ table were two white columns, wrapped with ivy. White lights and white tulle ran on the floor across the stage. The rest of the room had alternating pink and white uplighting projected onto the walls.

Lynnette's Portrait Design was there to take portraits. Ken Pogin, the owner of Duluth Event Lighting provided our accent lighting free of charge for both nights. It is well over a \$3000.00 value. He also provides a spot light for us to use. We are so blessed by his generosity and kindness. Judi, our secretary, with the help of Gary our custodian, created our evening programs. We printed our own tickets in house and ShelDon printed and folded our programs for us.

We are so thankful for our monetary contributors to help offset our overhead costs. Arrowhead Orthodontics donated \$1000.00, CLC Sunshine Bakers \$975.00, Lynnette's \$400.00, Piedmont Dental \$250.00, discoverpc.net \$100.00, the Sola's \$420.00, Esther Circle \$170.00, and Evangelism \$280.00. The church budget provides \$2000.00 each year. CLC January Mission of the Month collected \$680.00. All total we received \$6,275.00. We were blessed to receive gift certificates and gift baskets to use for our giveaways from Applebee's, Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Skyline Social and Games, Glensheen, Outback Steakhouse, Perkins, North Shore Scenic Railroad, Va' Bene, Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, and Bonnie Jacobson-Farmers Insurance gave 15 books. We had stuffed animals as door prizes; some we purchased at a discount last year and we were blessed by an abundance of donated ones! We gave out 75 of them this year.

Our Volunteers: Jim & Sandy Carlson, Grace Wells, Mike & Wendy Pickar, Gary Lofald, Gary Glad, Rosa DeRocher-Cook and her daughter, Kim Kirkland, along with our committee members. Our coatroom attendants were Julie & Alondra Guddeck, Brody Bruns and Julie's friend Britt. Julie enjoys providing baskets of candy for the girls. Without these dedicated volunteers, this event would not happen!

A non-refundable deposit of \$2,000.00 will secure next year's dates of 1/31 & 2/7 of 2026. We are very excited to celebrate our 30th Year! Our hope is to secure enough money next year to be able to provide a keepsake to give to each of our guests as we celebrate this milestone. Our hope is that we can continue provide a quality and memorable event for our guests and that God will continue to bless all of our monetary needs.

We are honored to have been able to bring this event to our community for the past 29 years. We pray that with the message our guests received from Pastor Mark, that seeds were planted and that these relationships will grow stronger. It is truly amazing to witness.

To God be the Glory!

In Christ, The Father Daughter Ball Committee:

Kolleen Carlson, JoAnna Carlson-Danielson, Kristine Holt, Laurie Wiita & Carolyn Lofald



March Mission of the Month:

KDNW Radio



Life 97.3 is family friendly radio that plays positive and uplifting music that helps you connect with God. Life 97.3 exists to lead people to Christ and nurture believers in their spiritual growth through Christ-centered media.

Today, Northwestern Media operates 14 listener supported Christian radio stations throughout the Midwest.

You may make checks payable to: Christ Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your continued support in our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known."

Dear Christ Lutheran,

Thank you for your donation for my trip to Mexico. I can't wait to see how God will use me!

Much appreciation,
Ilya Mainer



UPDATE

Norma Johnson's new address and phone number:

4195 Maple Grove Rd Rm 445
Hermantown MN 55811
218-302-4340

Maintenance Report-2025

Hard to believe it is already March! Thankful that the snowfall has been light. Our thanks to Jim, Gary G. and Gary L. for their help with snow blowing and shoveling!

Arrow Lift came on 2/10/25 and performed the load test on our elevator. This is to make sure that it functions properly and that everything is still set correctly. We will need to purchase another back-up battery for the main controller. We are due to sign our yearly maintenance agreement with them.

Around the church, we are still looking into ring cameras and the Wi-Fi throughout the church and addressing having the altar refinished. The leaking faucet in the sacristy and its drain has been fixed.

The overhead garage door spring broke at the parsonage. It was repaired on 2/4/25 by DoorCo.

We will be installing the front closet bifold door at the parsonage.

We will contract with Hartel Disposal to schedule a regular monthly garbage pickup of our 6-yard dumpster.

Just a reminder, there s styrofoam in the overhead kitchen exhaust fans. If you need to use the fans, please contact me so we can take them down. They are working well to keep the cold out of the kitchen!

If you note anything that needs a repair, please contact me and let me know. God has blessed us with a beautiful place to worship and sing praises to Him!

In Christ,

Carolyn Lofald – VP/Maintenance Chair

March Food Share

Due to the March Messenger going to print early, we will give you an update in the April Messenger.

Thank you for your prayers, donations and monetary contributions to this mission!



**Food Share: Thursday, Feb. 27
from 11:30-12:30**

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

The leadership of the church
Dr. Cary Larson & the AALC
The ministry at Union Gospel Mission
Students and Teachers from pre-k to college
Our country, military & police

Pastor Yount and his ministry in Slovakia
The steadfastness of our faith
Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Mission of the Month: KDNW Radio

Please Pray for Those with Health Needs:

Jean Clark
Vi Boder
Florence Kubiak
Jane McLean
Luanne Wachula

Carol Sogard
Donna Swanson
The Lund Family
Laura Cruz
Brian MacDonald
Norma Johnson

Mary Jenny
Mark Malander
Michael Wilson
Janice Peterson
David Wood

If there are any people who have been accidently overlooked, please contact the church office.



Please pray for Vicki Johnson and her family at the passing away of her sister, Pamela Perrine on February 9, 2025.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND PLANTS

All are welcome to place fresh flowers or floral plants on the church altar for a Sunday service. It can be for a memorial, tribute, celebration, or just because. We need to know at least 2 weeks before you would like to place them -unless they are from a funeral.

Please call the church office to get more information. Thank you!

Happy Birthday!

*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts,
O God! How vast is the sum of them!*

Carol Sogard	March 25
Laviere Johnson	March 26
Olivia Allen	March 28
Lowaine Morris	March 29
Florence Kubiak	March 30

If you would like your birthday included in the messenger please contact the office